3: Simutis S-4 (no date) 1942 RB5 Lithuanians RB5

474 operative branches, is a small sum. In the unclassified group [458] in the year 1939 there were 430 societies with a membership of 4,581. The total membership of all coöperative societies in 1939 was 161,256.

All the coöperative unions and bigger coöperative societies have representatives in the Council of Coöperatives of Lithuania (Lietuvos Kooperatyvu Taryba), which was formally chartered on January 30, 1925. The task of the Council is to encourage coöperative movement, to maintain close ties among coöperatives in Lithuania and in foreign countries, and to represent them in the government institutions and [204] public organizations. The Council publishes the magazines *Talka* (Coöperation) and *Bendras Darbas* (Coöperative Work).[26]

In short, it may be said that coöperation has played an important role in the economic reconstruction and development of Lithuania since 1918. Coöperative institutions have increased the purchasing power of the farmers, both as producers and as consumers. At the same time they have furthered economic progress both by increasing productivity and by improving the quality of many products.

GRAIN CULTURE

243 Grain culture, which has been known in Lithuania since ancient times, was the backbone of the country's agriculture before the World War of 1914–18. Though there has been a tendency since 1926 to concentrate more on livestock breeding and dairying, grain culture still is the dominating feature of Lithuania's agriculture.

243 In recent years there has been a yearly production of 439 about 1.6 to 1.7 million metric tons of grain, with only a

[26] Šalčius, *op. cit.*, pp. 230–31.

* 538 204 ●

the year 1883 is the first one that is again decisive for the trend of Lithuanian literature. In March of that year Dr. Basanavičius published in Ragnit the first number of a monthly newspaper with the name Aušra (The Dawn). This newspaper became the center of the young Lithuanian literature and intelligentsia. It remained neutral with regard to the Poles, and did not actually have a political program. None of its publishers was a politician. They fought for the rights of the Lithuanian language, the Lithuanian schools, and Lithuanian education. The new national consciousness, however, which was the real foundation and prerequisite for all these demands, was carried by this newspaper into the farthest regions of Lithuania. (33) In this lies its decisive sig-

33. Cf. on this point Eduard Hermann, Die litauische Gemeinsprache als Problem der allgemeinen Sprachwissenschaft (Göttingen, 1929), p. 103: "I have been told by many old Lithuanians how as students they practically devoured the periodicals whose importation to Russia was forbidden so that they could read them only secretly, and how the national idea thus inspired the youth. Through these periodicals many learned Lithuanian for the first time. The essays were often read aloud to friends, since few copies were available."

* 538 204 195

nificance. It became important for a new revival of Lithuanian literature in that it provided a firm basis for a general literary language which had been lacking. There inevitably evolved the necessity of creating a general literary language, understandable to all, out of the numerous Lithuanian dialects. To be sure, this work did not succeed at one stroke, especially since

538 the editors changed and there was no linguist
204 among them. Primarily the manner of writing re-
195 mained quite varied. (34)

[113]

34. Cf. on this question: P. Jonikas, "Apie Aušros rašomąją kalbą (On the Literary Language of the Aušra) in Vairas, 1933, Vol. V, No. 12, p. 418, where further references are also given; also the already mentioned work of Hermann (fn. 33) in the Abh. d. königl. Ges. d. Wiss. Phil.-Hist. Kl., No. 1.

538 The world of ideas of Aušra stands in a
204 direct relationship to that peculiar world of ideas that we /232/ became acquainted with in observing the Vilna period of Lithuanian romanticism. A romantic concern with the past of the people and their language (translations of poems by Polish romantics) is characteristic of this period. When the present is treated, elegica, thoroughly unrevolutionary moods emerge, as in the simple poem by Maironis, "Lithuanian Misery," contained in No. 6 of the year 1885, which reads:

Great God, dear God,
Say, wherein lies our sin,
Why is the sky dark,
Why do cold winds blow?

Spread over us your wings--
Although we are sinners out of weakness,
Protect us and make us one,
For we are your children.

The newspaper Aušra lasted for only three years. The romanticism of an idealized past and national unity demanded the complement of the present. Above all the split in the Lithuanian intelligentsia, mentioned before, which immediately

538 became evident at the start of the development,
204 led to the founding of four new organ few years later: the world of ideas of Aušra that mixture of religious idealism and patriotic romanticism, lived on in the clerical periodical Apžvalga (Review) (Tilsit, 1890-96) and, after the latter had ceased to exist, in Tevynės Sargas (Guardian of the Fatherland). The second, more realistically and practically minded group made the newspapers Varpas (The Bell) and Ūkininkas (The Peasant) its mouthpiece. The further progress of Lithuanian literature in the years following was of necessity practically oriented, since the awakening of a /233/ national consciousness appeared to that generation the most important, indeed almost the only, task of art. But several
538 poets emerged from this period who were to exert their literary influence on later generations (34)

34. /See above./

Born of the romantic spirit of Aušra are the creations of Vincas Pietaris (1850-1902). The son of a peasant in the district of Vilkaviškis, after graduating from the Marijampolė gymnasium he studied first physics, then medicine, and passed the state examination at the Moscow University in 1879. We find him later as a district physician in Ustiuschna, where he died. Return to his Lithuanian homeland was forbidden him, since as the recipient of a government scholarship he had to accept the position that was assigned him by the Russian government. Pietaris' literary activity began around 1890. From then on we find his name frequently in the Lithuanian press, as well as in American-Lithuanian papers. Pietaris, like nearly all the Lithuanian writers at that time, was in the first place a journalist. This also placed a stamp on his artistic creations. His most important publications are his memoirs

11: League of Nations G-4 (no date) 1939 RB5 Lithuanians RB5

The popularisation of agriculture by means of adult courses and lectures plays an important part in the scheme of agricultural and domestic education. Until 1927, the courses and lectures were organised and subsidised by the Ministry of Agriculture; since that date, they have been taken over by the Chamber of Agriculture. Between 1928 and 1937, the Chamber organised 19,459 lectures on various agricultural questions in 12,824 towns and villages, attended by 379,700 agriculturists; 1,117 lectures on various agricultural questions, organised for farmers' sons serving with the forces, were attended by 170,000 men. Between 1928 and 1937, 4,198 courses, lasting from three to six days and attended by 853,600 agriculturists, were given by agricultural experts, doctors, veterinary surgeons, forestry experts, etc. A large number of courses are organised on the feeding and care of live-stock, milking, flax-scotching and the secondary branches of agriculture (poultry-keeping, bee-keeping, horticulture).

Altogether, approximately one and a-half million agriculturists have passed through the agricultural schools up to date or attended courses or lectures. Out of the 300,000 farms, there is not one from which several inmates have not gone to an agricultural school or attended courses or lectures. In addition, agricultural lectures are broadcast regularly.

Since 1928, the Chamber of Agriculture has organised lectures and domestic economy courses for farmers' wives and peasant girls, given for the most part by the agricultural domestic economy advisers attached to the Chamber. There are general and special courses. The former last either from one to three months or from two to three weeks. The following subjects are included: preparation of food, housewifery, laundry, hygiene and the care of children. The courses lasting from one to three months also include sewing, manual work, horticulture, bee-keeping, poultry-keeping, care of live-stock, co-operation, etc. At the special courses (from three to fifteen days), instruction is given in one of these subjects, according to the time of year and local circumstances. No charge is made for the courses, which are held at the farms or in the elementary schools. Between 1928 and 1937, upwards of 75,000 farmers' wives and peasant girls attended housewifery courses. Lectures on household management are also broadcast from time to time.

The Chamber of Agriculture organises domestic economy exhibitions and excursions to enable farmers' wives to visit model farms, interesting undertakings, etc.

The agricultural Press plays an important part in popularising agriculture. The Chamber of Commerce issues a weekly review, *Ūkininko Patarėjas* (*The Peasant's Adviser*), with two supplements: *Jaunasis Ūkininkas* (the organ of the Union of Young Farmers' Clubs) and *Šeimininkė* (for farmers' wives).

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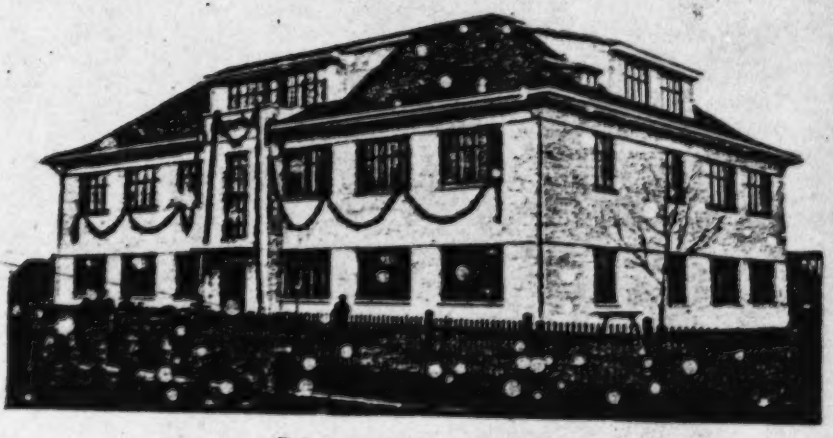
[204] 874 This review has a circulation of about 80,000. There are also three weekly reviews for agriculturists : *Lietuvos Ūkininkas*, *Ūkininkas* and *Mūsų Laikraštis*, all with a large circulation.

Lastly, agricultural experts and other technicians in the service of the Chamber of Agriculture give farmers and their wives advice and practical instruction in all branches of agriculture and agricultural domestic economy (including the care of children).



Primary school at Kvėdarna.